

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

~~presenting a user interface to access records in a database;  
associating a record key with a database key in response to a record access, the record key comprising a key used to identify the record, and the database key comprising a key used to track the record;~~

~~modifying the record key based on input received via the user interface;  
associating the modified record key with the database key; and  
providing access to the record through the user interface using the database key associated with the modified record key to identify the record in the database.~~

accessing records in a database including identifying records using database keys corresponding to each record, wherein each record in the database has a database key that uniquely identifies the corresponding record in the database;

generating records outside the database in response to a user input and through a user interface, wherein generating records includes generating records having non-unique record keys and no database keys;

generating database keys for records having no database key using a database key association layer;

associating the generated database keys with non-unique record keys, where non-unique record keys do not have sufficient information to uniquely identify records in the database;

receiving, in the database key association layer, a first non-unique record key from the user interface for a first record, the first non-unique record key having insufficient information to uniquely identify the first record as a record in the database;

generating a first database key for the first record and uniquely associating the first database key with the first non-unique record key to enable the first record to be stored in the

database, the generating a first database key for the first record and uniquely associating the first database key with the first non-unique record key being done by the database key association layer; and

storing the first record in the database after the first database key has been generated, the database using the first database key to identify the first record in the database.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first database key is a unique value based on information independent of both the content and organization of [[a]] the first record in [[a]] the database.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first record includes the ~~associated~~ first database key when stored in memory at runtime, the method further comprising removing the database key from the record before storing the record in the database.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first non-unique record key comprises an object identifier portion and an object type portion.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A database system comprising:

~~a database stored on a storage device;~~

~~a program that identifies a record database key; and~~

~~a database key association layer operable to generate the database key and associate the database key with a record key in response to a record access by the program, wherein the record key comprises a key usable to identify the record in the database.~~

a database comprising records, wherein each record in the database has a database key that uniquely identifies the corresponding record in the database;

a program executing in the computing system that accesses records in the database, the program identifying records using the database keys corresponding to each record;

a user interface operable to allow a user to generate records outside the database, including records having non-unique record keys and no database keys;

a database key association layer operable to generate database keys and associate database keys generated by the database key association layer with non-unique record keys, where non-unique record keys do not have sufficient information to uniquely identify records in the database;

wherein the database key association layer is operable to receive a first non-unique record key from the user interface for a first record, the first non-unique record key having insufficient information to uniquely identify the first record as a record in the database, and to generate a first database key for the first record and uniquely associate the first database key with the first non-unique record key to enable the first record to be stored in the database; and

wherein the database key association layer is further operable to store the first record in the database after having generated the first database key, the database using the first database key to identify the first record in the database.

9. (Currently Amended) The database system of claim 8, wherein the first record includes the ~~associated-first~~ first database key when stored in memory at runtime and the first record ~~excludes~~ does not include the first database key when stored in the database.

10. (Currently Amended) The database system of claim 8, wherein the first database key is a unique value based upon ~~a value~~ information independent of both the content and organization of a record in a database.

11. (Currently Amended) The database system of claim 10, wherein the database key association layer ~~being~~is operable to generate a second ~~type of~~ database key usable to identify the first record in the database, wherein the second database key is based upon the record content and organization of the first record in a database.

12-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

~~presenting a user interface to access records in a database;~~  
~~associating a record key with a database key in response to a record access, the record key comprising a key used to identify the record, and the database key comprising a key used to track the record;~~

~~modifying the record key based on input received via the user interface;~~  
~~associating the modified record key with the database key; and~~  
~~providing access to the record through the user interface using the database key associated with the modified record key to identify the record in the database.~~

accessing records in a database including identifying records using database keys corresponding to each record, wherein each record in the database has a database key that uniquely identifies the corresponding record in the database;

generating records outside the database in response to a user input and through a user interface, wherein generating records includes generating records having non-unique record keys and no database keys;

generating database keys for records having no database key using a database key association layer;

associating the generated database keys with non-unique record keys, where non-unique record keys do not have sufficient information to uniquely identify records in the database;

receiving, in the database key association layer, a first non-unique record key from the user interface for a first record, the first non-unique record key having insufficient information to uniquely identify the first record as a record in the database;

generating a first database key for the first record and uniquely associating the first database key with the first non-unique record key to enable the first record to be stored in the database, the generating a first database key for the first record and uniquely associating the first database key with the first non-unique record key being done by the database key association layer; and

storing the first record in the database after the first database key has been generated, the database using the first database key to identify the first record in the database.

17. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein the first database key is a unique value based on information independent of both content and organization of [[a]] the first record in [[a]] the database.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein the first non-unique record key comprises an object identifier portion and an object type portion.

20. (Cancelled)